In the Claims

1-30. (Canceled)

31. (New) A preservation device comprising:

a envelope; and

a multiplicity of protruding tabs extending from the envelope, at least one of the protruding tabs having a greater length than others of the tabs so that the longer tab can have one end thereof introduced between the envelope and a container over which the device is placed to form a passage between an interior of the container and the exterior of the envelope to allow steam to be evacuated during heating of the container.

32. (New) The preservation device according to claim 31, wherein the envelope comprises an essentially circular planar surface at an end of which extends substantially perpendicularly of an essentially cylindrical portion.

33. (New) The preservation device according to claim 31, wherein the protruding tabs extend in a plane parallel to a plane defined by the planar surface of the envelope.

34. (New) The preservation device according to claim 33, wherein the protruding tabs are located essentially at ends of the cylindrical portion.

35. (New) The preservation device according to claim 31, wherein the protruding tabs are arranged in pairs opposite each other.

36. (New) The preservation device according to claim 31, wherein the envelope is made of plastic.

37. (New) The preservation device according to claim 36, wherein the envelope is made of an elastomer.

38. (New) The preservation device according to claim 32, wherein an end portion of the planar surface and the cylindrical portion have a thickness greater than the rest of the surface.

39. (New) The preservation device according to claim 38, wherein the greater thickness is in fluted form.

40. (New) The preservation device according to claim 38, wherein the planar surface has a thickness of 0.44 millimeters ± 0.05 mm, with an end as well as the cylindrical portion having a thickness ranging from 0.44 mm ± 0.05 mm at a recess of the sinusoidal fluting to 1.44 mm ± 0.05 at a peak of the fluting.

41. (New) The preservation device according to claim 32, wherein the essentially cylindrical portion further comprises a multiplicity of elastic elements capable of ensuring airtightness of the envelope.

42. (New) The preservation device according to claim 41, wherein the elements are located on an internal surface of the essentially cylindrical portion.

43. (New) A preservation device comprising:

an envelope having a generally planar surface at an end of which extends substantially perpendicularly an essentially cylindrical portion; and

at least two protruding tabs which extend in a plane parallel to a plane defined by the planar surface, wherein the cylindrical portion has a thickness greater than at least a portion of the planar surface, the greater thickness being in fluted form.

44. (New) The preservation device of claim 43, wherein the at least two protruding tabs are located at ends of the envelope.

45. (New) The preservation device of claim 43, wherein the at least two protruding tabs comprise at least four protruding tabs.

46. (New) The preservation device of claim 43, wherein the planar surface has a thickness of 0.44 millimeters ± 0.05 mm, with an end as well as the cylindrical portion having a thickness ranging from 0.44 mm ± 0.05 mm at a recess of the fluting to 1.44 mm ± 0.05 at a peak of the fluting.

47. (New) The preservation device of claim 43, wherein the cylindrical portion further comprises a multiplicity of elastic elements capable of ensuring airtightness against a container.

48. (New) The preservation device according to claim 47, wherein the elements are located on an internal surface of the cylindrical portion in contact with walls of the container.